

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: NATO, MNUS, DA
SUBJECT: DANISH CONCERN OVER ERW DELAY

REF: (A) STATE 07801 (B) COPENHAGEN 1879

1. DANISH AMBASSADOR SVART TELEPHONED AMB FIRST THING THIS MORNING TO EXPRESS HIS SERIOUS CONCERN OVER FURTHER DELAYS IN HANDLING ERW ISSUE HERE AT NATO. HE REGRETTED THAT CANCELLATION OF MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 20 AND 22 HAD ACTED AS A BRAKE ON MOMENTUM WHICH HAD DEVELOPED AT NATO LOOKING TOWARD DECISIONS THIS WEEK. IT WOULD BE A GREAT PITY IF LOSS OF MOMENTUM CAUSED EROSION IN NATIONAL POSITIONS WHICH, DESPITE PROBLEMS ON PART OF SOME, WERE DEVELOPING TOWARD FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO US INITIATIVES.

2. LOOKING BEYOND BRUSSELS SITUATION, SVART SAID HE WANTED TO CALL ATTENTION TO DISARMAMENT DEBATE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT ON APRIL 4. MANY UNFAVORABLE THINGS WERE BOUND TO BE SAID DURING THAT DEBATE, AND HE FRANKLY FEARED THAT FALLOUT FROM THE DEBATE MIGHT "ROLL DOWN OVER SCANDINAVIA".

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3. SVART COMMENTED THAT WE SHOULD ALSO KEEP IN MIND THAT THE DATES OF NPG MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DENMARK APRIL 18 AND 19 ARE DRAWING EVER NEARER. HE WOULD LIKE TO GET ERW DECISIONS OUT OF THE WAY AS FAR IN ADVANCE OF NPG MEETING AS POSSIBLE. HE EXPECTS THERE WILL BE SOME ANTI-NUCLEAR DEMONSTRATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE NPG MEETING, AND HE BELIEVES THAT THE CLOSER THE TIMING OF

ERW DECISIONS TO NPG MEETING DATES THE MORE ATTENTION
WILL BE DRAWN TO THE ISSUE AND THE MORE BUILDUP THERE
WILL BE OF DEMONSTRATIONS.

4. SVART PRESSED HARD TO KNOW WHAT OUR THINKING WAS WITH
RESPECT TO RESCHEDULING A MEETING. AMBASSADOR HAD
NOTHING TO OFFER BEYOND FIRST TWO PARAGRAPHS REFTEL A,
SUBSTANCE OF WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN SHARED WITH SVART
YESTERDAY.

5. COMMENT: DANISH SENSE OF URGENCY IS SHARED HERE BY
MOST PERMREPS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHOSE GOVERNMENTS HAVE
PARTICULAR INTEREST IN ERW ISSUE. DEAN OF NATO CORPS,
ITALIAN PERMREP CATALANO, CALLED AMB LATE YESTERDAY TO
COMMENT THAT MANY PERMREPS HAD APPROACHED HIM DURING
COURSE OF DAY AND THAT THE CORRIDORS HAD BEEN BUZZING
ALL DAY WITH SPECULATIONS AS TO WHAT THE AMERICANS WERE
UP TO. WHILE MOST HAVE BEEN POLITE ABOUT IT, FACT IS
THAT MOST PEOPLE SHARE ATTITUDE OF GENSCHER REPORTED IN
BONN 5006 IN WANTING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE RATIONALE FOR
THE
AMERICAN ACTION AND INFO AS TO US VIEWS ON RESCHEDULING
MEETINGS. IT WOULD BE IN OUR BEST INTEREST TO PROVIDE
SOMETHING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BENNETT

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